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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The editor is not responsible for opinions expressed in this department. All communications must be accompanied by the name and address of the writer to ensure publication.

### EDITH CAVELL HONORED

Dear Editor: In a recent letter from England, written by an American woman who has lived there for many years, is the following description of the funeral of nurse Edith Cavell, which may be of interest to your readers: "We went to see the Edith Cavell funeral procession, and from where I stood on the steps of Westminster Hospital, I saw one of the clergy lay on the coffin, after the guards had lifted it from the gun carriage to their shoulders, a beautiful wreath of red and white carnations and lilies, which Queen Alexandra had sent; and to-day a friend sent me these words, copied from the card, in her own handwriting:

'Life's race well run,  
Life's work well done,  
Life's crown well won,  
Now comes rest.'

They are, as you may know, from Edward Hayne Parker's ode to President Garfield. I have never known anything more simple nor of more dignity; nor was there anything *tense* in the crowd, which very much puzzled me and made me wonder if we were in the presence of the new spirit of the age, when a soldier woman was accepted as a matter of course. All up Victoria Street, soft and full of tone, the Guard's band played Chopin's funeral march, more beautifully than I have ever heard it played; and then the coffin, draped with the Union Jack, the wreath of English flowers, and the voices of the choirs and clergy—and silence."

Philadelphia

M. G. R.

### THE TRIALS OF UNCERTAINTY

Dear Editor: I have noticed that a number are talking about "lack of patriotism" of the Army nurses that are still in the service of our Uncle Sam. I don't hesitate to say that it is not lack of patriotism that is the cause of so much seeming complaint. The real cause is lack of anything definite. If we knew that the Army Nurse Corps would need us six or even twelve months, the majority of us would be more than willing to stay, I am sure, and the chief nurses would hear less often, "When am I going to get my discharge?" If one of us had a hospital position before enlisting, she can't make any definite arrangements with the hospital to assume her former position for the very simple reason that she can't say when she will be discharged from the Army! On the other hand, she knows that she will be discharged from the Army some time in the near future, only to find herself without a position of any kind, and that is enough to worry any one! Don't you think so? And I don't think very many of us that have served in the Army can rest many months. We all know that we must go to work and try to prepare for that "rainy" day, that will come even to nurses. We, Army nurses, know that the A. E. F. boys must be taken care of, and we are more than willing to stay and see that our boys who have done so much for us are given all the care and encouragement that only a nurse can give, for we also know what it means to be away from home and loved ones. The

majority of the A. N. C. haven't even been asked, "How long will you stay?" All we know is that we are here, for how long, seems a mystery to most of us!  
Texas M. D. M.

#### WANTED,—A PHOTOGRAPH

Dear Editor: On April 2, 1919, General Pershing inspected, at Nevers, France, the personnel of Mesves and Mars Hospital Centers. After the inspection he gave an address and there was a dense crowd around the speaker's stand. After the address he was greeted by a number of French officers, and just as he was shaking hands with a French major of the Medical Corps, one of the nurses from either Mars or Mesves took a snap-shot of him. The wife of the French major saw the occurrence and tried to reach the nurse, but could not on account of the crush. A few days later the nurses at Mesves Hospital Center, where I was stationed, left for the States. I saw the Major's wife at Nevers, after our nurses left, and she is very anxious, naturally, to get a copy of the picture in question. As the Major was a very good friend of our people and did many things to help us, I want to do this for him if possible. Can you help me?

P. O. Box 35,  
Base Hospital, Camp Dix, N. J.

WALTER S. LUCAS,  
*Major, Medical Corps.*

#### THE AMERICAN LEGION

Dear Editor: I have seen nothing in the JOURNAL to indicate that the nurses of the country know about the permanent veteran's organization that has been formed to perpetuate that peculiar fellowship which existed among those of us who have so proudly worn the uniform, and I am writing this in the hope that you will publish it, so that other nurses will do as we, here in the Nation's Capitol, have done, form a Post of the American Legion. In May of this year a caucus was held at St. Louis, Mo., and a constitution adopted which provided for state organizations, to be known as Departments (and in this respect the District of Columbia ranks as a state), under the state departments there are local units known as Posts, which may have a minimum membership of fifteen. A Post desiring a charter may apply to the State Organization and on their recommendation the National Executive Committee will issue the charter. No charter is to be issued in the name of any living person. All persons are eligible to membership in this organization who were in the military or naval service of the United States during the period between April 6, 1917, and November 11, 1918, both dates inclusive, and all persons who served with the Allies, provided they were citizens of the United States at the time of their enlistment and who are again citizens at the time of their application, except those persons separated from the service under terms amounting to dishonorable discharge, and also those who refused to perform their military duties on the ground of conscientious objection. This obviously includes Yeomen (F), "Marinettes" and nurses. On July 10, a charter was granted to Jane A. Delano Post No. 1. This Post is composed of nurses and it is safe to say that the original roster will close with no less than 200 names. Locally the Post has remarkable opportunities, being at the Nation's Capitol, and having, besides those nurses who entered the service from the District of Columbia, a chance to draw for membership on the nurses who are on duty at the U. S. Naval Hospital, Walter Reed U. S. A. General Hospital, Naval Dispensary, Attending Surgeon's Office and those who are on duty in the offices of the Superintendents of the Army and Navy Nurse Corps.